

Unit assembled to handle expanded newborn screening workload

With the July 1 deadline approaching that will expand the number of newborn screening conditions in Kansas, the Bureau of Family Health (BFH) and the Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment have been busy preparing to handle the increased volume of testing and parental follow-up.

In 2007, the Kansas Legislature passed amendments to KSA 65-180 that requires KDHE to expand its program of newborn screening from PKU, galactosemia, hypothyroidism and sickle cell to a nationally-recommended core panel of 29 conditions.

Since 1965, BFH has provided the follow-up and diagnosis portions of newborn screening to parents and medical providers when the State Laboratories notifies BFH staff of abnormal results.

As a outcome of the July 1 expanded screening panels, Sound Beginnings, a KDHE program initiated in 1999 to screen newborns for potential hearing programs, has been integrated into the expanded newborn screening unit.

This reorganization will allow BFH to integrate newborn metabolic and newborn hearing screening within one unit for greater efficiency and service to Kansas newborns and their families.



Expanded newborn screening staff members are, from left, Chelsea Klinger, Jan Conklin, Jamey Kendall, Lisa Elliott, Liz Abbey, Linda Williams, and Kim Aeillo.

For more information about the newborn screening program, go to www.kdheks.gov/newborn_screening.